

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

1. (original): A composition comprising a substantially integral bARE class protein.
2. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a stabilising agent.
3. (original): The composition according to claim 2, wherein the stabilising agent is a charged amino acid or an analogue thereof.
4. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 3, wherein the stabilising agent is Arginine or Arginine Phosphate.
5. (original): The composition according to claim 4, wherein the Arginine or Arginine phosphate is present in an amount of from about 100mM to about 400mM.
6. (original): The composition according to claim 2, wherein the composition comprises an uncharged agent or an analogue thereof.
7. (original): The composition according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises a zwitterionic agent.
8. (original): The composition according to claim 7, wherein the zwitterionic agent is a zwitterionic detergent.
9. (original): The composition according to claim 8, wherein the zwitterionic detergent is 3-(3-Cholamidopropyl)-dimethylammonio-1-propanesulfonate (CHAPS).
10. (original): The composition according to claim 9, wherein the zwitterionic detergent is present in an amount of from about 0.05% to about 0.5% by weight per volume (w/v).

11. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 2, wherein the composition comprises a charged amino acid or analogue ~~according to any one of claims 3-5~~ and an uncharged agent ~~according to any one of claims 6-9~~.

12. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-11~~, wherein the Integrity of the bARE class protein is determined with reference to an Integrity Ratio.

13. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-12~~, wherein the bARE protein is an AB5 protein.

14. (original): The composition according to claim 13, wherein the bARE protein is an LTK63 or LTK 72 protein.

15. (original): A method of stabilising a bARE protein wherein the method comprises providing a bARE class protein and combining the bARE class protein with a stabilising agent.

16. (original): The method according to claim 15, wherein the stabilising agent is a charged amino acid or an analogue thereof.

17. (original): The method according to claim 16, wherein the stabilising agent is Arginine or Arginine Phosphate.

18. (original): The method according to claim 17, wherein the Arginine or Arginine phosphate is present in an amount of from about 100mM to about 400mM.

19. (original): The method according to claim 15, wherein the stabilising agent is an uncharged agent.

20. (original): The method according to claim 19, wherein the uncharged agent is a zwitterionic agent.

21. (original): The method according to claim 20, wherein the zwitterionic agent is a zwitterionic detergent.

22. (original): The method according to claim 21, wherein the zwitterionic detergent is 3-(3-Cholamidopropyl)-dimethylammonio-1-propanesulfonate (CHAPS).

23. (original): The method according to claim 22, wherein the zwitterionic detergent is present in an amount of from about 0.05% to about 0.5% by weight per volume (w/v).

24. (currently amended): The method according to claim 15, wherein the stabilising agent comprises a charged amino acid ~~according to any one of claims 16-18~~ and an uncharged agent ~~according to any one of claims 19-23~~.

25. (currently amended): The method according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15-24~~, wherein the stabilising of the bARE class protein is determined with reference to an Integrity Ratio.

26. (currently amended): The method according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15-25~~, wherein the bARE protein is an AB5 protein.

27. (original): The method according to claim 26, wherein the AB5 protein is an LTK63 or LTK 72 protein.

28. (currently amended): A method of analysing a bARE class protein comprising analysing a composition comprising the bARE class protein under non-dissociating conditions to which differentiate between integral and dissociated bARE class proteins.

29. (currently amended): The method according to claim 28, wherein the method comprises ~~a separation step on~~ separating the proteins using a charged polymeric separation material.

30. (original): The method according to claim 29, wherein the polymeric separation material is a hydrogel monomer.

31. (original): The method according to claim 30, wherein the hydrogel monomer is a hydroxylated polymethacrylate (HEMA) monomer.

32. (original): The method according to claim 31, wherein the HEMA has a particle size of about 6 microns.

33. (currently amended): The method according to claim 31 ~~or 32~~, wherein the HEMA has a porosity of about 250A.

34. (original): A method of analysing a bARE class protein wherein the method comprises:

(i) applying a bARE class protein to a charged polymeric separation material in an apparatus configured to resolve an integral bARE class protein from a dissociated bARE class protein;

(ii) treating the separation material comprising the applied bARE class protein with an ionic buffer; and

(iii) detecting one or more integral or dissociated bARE class proteins.

35. (currently amended): The method according to claim 34, wherein the separation material is a hydrogel monomer as defined in any one of claims 30-33.

36. (currently amended): The method according to claim 34 ~~or 35~~, wherein the ionic buffer is a physiologically acceptable buffer with a pH of from about 7.0 to about 8.0.

37. (original): A method for identifying a bARE class protein stabilisation agent wherein the method comprises:

(i) combining a bARE class protein with a candidate stabilising agent to form a bARE protein sample;

(ii) applying the bARE protein sample to a charged polymeric separation material in an apparatus configured to resolve an integral bARE class protein from a dissociated bARE class protein;

(iii) treating the separation material comprising the applied bARE class protein with an ionic buffer;

(iv) detecting one or more integral or dissociated bARE class proteins; and

(v) determining whether the candidate stabilising agent is a bARE protein stabilising agent.

38. (original): The method according to claim 37, wherein the method comprises calculating an Integrity Ratio for the bARE protein sample.

39. (original): The method according to claim 38, wherein the method further comprises comparing the Integrity Ratio for the bARE protein sample with an Integrity Ratio for a control without a candidate stabilising agent.

40. (currently amended): A stabilising agent identified by the method of claim 37 ~~any one of claims 37-39~~.

41. (original): The stabilising agent according to claim 40, which is a functional stabilising agent.

42. (original): The stabilising agent according to claim 40, which is a physical stabilising agent.

43. (currently amended): An immunogenic composition comprising a composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-14~~.

44. (original): An immunogenic composition according to claim 43, wherein further comprising an adjuvant, wherein said adjuvant is not the bARE protein.

45. (original): An immogenic composition according to claim 44, wherein the adjuvant is a mucosal adjuvant.

46. (canceled).

47. (currently amended): A method of treating a mammal to prevent and/or treat an immune disorder comprising administering a composition according to claim 43~~any one of claims 43-45~~.

48. (original): A method according to claim 47 wherein the mammal is a human.

49 to 60. (canceled).